

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) Process for switching telephone conversations to be paid by ~~the~~ a call recipient, the process comprising:

~~transmitting in which the~~ a telephone number of the call recipient ~~is transmitted to~~ a switching system by ~~the~~ a caller;; and

checking the telephone number ~~is checked~~ in terms of its validity in a databank adjustment unit;; and ~~then,~~

following prior authorization by the call recipient, automatically establishing a telecommunications connection ~~is automatically established~~ between the caller and the call recipient.

2. (Currently Amended) Process in accordance with claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the switching system is dialed by the caller, and ~~whereby~~ in the telephone number of the call recipient is transmitted to the switching system at the same time as the call to the switching system.

3. (Currently Amended) Process in accordance with claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a status check of the call recipient is carried out.

4. (Currently Amended) Process in accordance with ~~one of the claim 3s 1 through 3~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein, following successful status checking, a telecommunications connection is automatically established between the caller and the call recipient for a specifiable period of time.

5. (Currently Amended) Process in accordance with ~~one of the preceding claims 1~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein caller-identifying information is transmitted from the caller to the call recipient for the telecommunications connection between the caller and the call recipient.

6. (Currently Amended) Process in accordance with ~~one of the preceding claims 1~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the telecommunications connection between the caller and the call recipient is automatically broken off following the transmission of the caller-identifying information and/or after a specifiable time interval.

7. (Currently Amended) Process in accordance with ~~one of the preceding claims 1~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein items of information pertaining to the rate scale are transmitted to the call recipient by the switching system.

8. (Currently Amended) Process in accordance with ~~one of the preceding claims~~ 1, characterized in that wherein the switching system automatically asks the call recipient for authorization of the telephone call.

9. (Currently Amended) Process in accordance with ~~one of the preceding claims~~ 1, characterized in that wherein in the absence of authorization by the call recipient, the switching system notifies the caller, and the telephone conversation is terminated.

10. (Currently Amended) Process in accordance with ~~one of the preceding claims~~ 1, characterized in that wherein, after the telephone conversation has taken place, the charge that is to be paid in this regard is automatically calculated and billed to the call recipient.